

2012
QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE SHERIFF
FOR COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA

These qualifications are intended for use as a popular guide. The Code references listed should be consulted as the final authority for all qualifications. It is the applicant's responsibility to determine what the qualifications are and that they are met.

The following are the qualifications for the Sheriff for Cobb County, Georgia:

1. They must be a citizen of the United States at the time of qualifying as a candidate for the office of sheriff.
2. They must be a resident of Cobb County and have resided in Cobb County for at least two (2) years immediately preceding the date of qualifying for election to the office.
3. They must be a registered voter at the time of qualifying as a candidate for the office of sheriff.
4. They must have attained the age of twenty-five (25) years at the time of qualifying as a candidate for the office of sheriff.*
5. They must have attained a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent in educational training as established by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Counsel at the time of qualifying as a candidate for the office of sheriff.*
6. They must not have been convicted of a felony offense or any offense involving moral turpitude contrary to the laws of this state, any other state or the United States; provided, however, that a plea of nolo contendere to a felony offense or any offense involving moral turpitude contrary to the laws of this state shall have the same effect as a plea of guilty, thereby disqualifying such a person from holding the office of sheriff.
7. They must be finger-printed and a search made of local state and national fingerprint files to disclose any criminal record, which fingerprints are to be taken under the direction of the Judge of the Probate Court and must be taken on or before, but no later than the close of qualification for election to the office of Sheriff.
8. They must give a complete history of places of residence for a period of six years immediately preceding the qualification date, giving the house number or RFD number, street, city, county and state.*
9. They must give a complete history of places of employment for a period of six years immediately preceding the qualification date, giving the period of time employed and the name and address of his employer.*

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10. Must be a registered peace officer as provided in O.C.G.A. §35-8-10 or a certified peace officer as defined in Chapter 8 of Title 35. Any person who is not a registered or certified peace officer at the time such person assumes the office of sheriff shall be required to complete satisfactorily the requirements for certification as a peace officer as provided in Chapter 8 of Title 35 within six months after such person takes office; provided, however, that an extension of time to complete such requirements may be granted by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council upon the presentation of evidence by a sheriff that he or she was unable to complete the basic training course and certification requirements due to illness, injury, military service, or other reasons deemed sufficient by such council. The Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council shall make every effort to ensure that space is available for newly elected sheriffs who are not certified or registered peace officers to attend the course as soon as possible after such person takes office. Such council shall notify the appropriate judge of the probate court whenever a newly elected sheriff who is not certified fails to become certified as a peace officer pursuant to the requirements of this subparagraph.*
11. Each person offering to run for the office of sheriff and who is otherwise qualified shall be allowed, six month prior to qualifying and at his or her own expense, to attend the basic mandate course for peace officers. The Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council shall work to ensure that space is available for such individuals to attend the course.
12. They shall, within sixty (60) days prior to or at the time of qualifying file with the officer before whom such person has qualified to seek the office of sheriff a certified copy of his birth certificate and a certified copy of his high school diploma or certified proof of its recognized equivalent in educational training as established by the Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Counsel and swear or affirm before the officer before whom such person has qualified to seek the office of sheriff that he has, meets, or will meet by the date of the election all qualifications required above and has complied with qualification number seven (7) no later than the close of qualification for election to the office of sheriff.
13. Must pay a qualification fee of \$3,421.21 or file a Pauper's Affidavit O.C.G.A. §21-2-131(a)(1); §21-2-132(f).
14. Each candidate for the office of Sheriff of Cobb County shall, at the time he qualifies to run for the office of Sheriff, designate and certify to the Judge of the Probate Court the name of the person who shall be his Chief Deputy Sheriff. The Chief Deputy Sheriff shall possess the same qualifications for office as required fro the sheriff.

*Not applicable to any person who is currently serving as a duly qualified and elected sheriff of one of the several counties of this state.

The above requirements are excerpts from applicable law. The specific law of the requirements may be found in O.C.G.A. §15-16-1 and Georgia Constitution Article 9, Section 1, Paragraph 3.

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A. PARTY NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS:

15. In the case of a general primary, they must file an application not earlier than 9:00 a.m. on the Wednesday immediately following the third Monday in May immediately prior to the primary and not later than at 12:00 Noon on the Friday immediately following the Wednesday immediately following the third Monday in May, notwithstanding the fact that any such days may be legal holidays. In the case of a special primary, the candidate shall qualify no earlier than the date of the call for the special primary and no later than 25 days prior to the date of such primary. O.C.G.A. §21-2-153 (c).
16. Notice of candidacy must be filed with the political party by affidavit stating:
 - (a) Residence with street number, if any, and post office box address;
 - (b) Profession, business or occupation, if any;
 - (c) The name of his precinct;
 - (d) That he is an elector of the county of his residence eligible to vote in the primary election in which he is a candidate for nomination;
 - (e) The name of the office he is seeking;
 - (f) That he is eligible to hold such office;
 - (g) That he has never been convicted and sentenced in any court of competent jurisdiction for fraudulent violation of primary or election laws, malfeasance in office, or felony involving moral turpitude under the laws of this state or any other state or of the United States, or that his civil rights have been restored and that at least ten years have elapsed from the date of completion of the sentence without a subsequent conviction of another felony involving moral turpitude; and
 - (h) That he will not knowingly violate the Election Chapter of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A. §21-2-153(e)), or the rules and regulations adopted under said Chapter.

B. INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS:

17. In the case of a general election, they must file an application not earlier than 9:00 a.m. on the fourth Monday in June and no later than 25 days prior to the date of such primary. 12:00 Noon on the Friday following the fourth Monday in June. In case of a special election, they

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must file an application no earlier than the date of the call of the election and no later than 25 days prior to the date of such primary. O.C.G.A. §21-2-132 (c).

18. Notice of candidacy must be filed with an affidavit stating:
 - (a) Residence with street number, if any, and post office box address;
 - (b) Profession, business or occupation, if any;
 - (c) The name of his precinct;
 - (d) That he is an elector of the county of his residence eligible to vote in the election in which he is a candidate;
 - (e) The name of the office he is seeking;
 - (f) That he is eligible to hold such office;
 - (g) That he has never been convicted and sentenced in any court of competent jurisdiction for fraudulent violation of primary or election laws, malfeasance in office, or felony involving moral turpitude under the laws of this state or any other state or of the United States, or that his civil rights have been restored and that at least ten years have elapsed from the date of completion of the sentence without a subsequent conviction of another felony involving moral turpitude; and
 - (h) That he will not knowingly violate the Election Chapter of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A. §21-2-132(e)), or the rules and regulations adopted under said Chapter.